

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the presently pending claims, claims 1-6 and 14-18, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103. The primary reference cited by the Examiner was Japanese Published Patent Application No. 2002-229646 ("Katsunori"). For claims 1, 2 and 14, the Examiner solely cited Katsunori. For claims 3-5 and 15-17, the Examiner cited Katsunori and U.S. Patent No. 5,572,201 ("Graham"). For claims 6 and 18, the Examiner cited Katsunori and U.S. Patent No. 3,941,201 ("Hermann"). Claims 7 – 13 and 19 – 22 were previously withdrawn in response to the Examiner's restriction-election requirement.

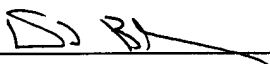
Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections, and in particular, the Examiner's application of the Graham and Hermann references. The Graham reference discusses the illumination of a light on an instrument panel *inside* a vehicle. Similarly, the Hermann reference discusses the *merging* of two roads into one.

Notwithstanding, Applicant has amended the claims for clarification. As presently amended, claims 1 and 14 include the flashing of an *external light* on a vehicle before an interrupt point. Similarly, claims 6 and 18 have been amended to clarify that when two vehicles are approaching a narrow road, the two vehicles are approaching from *different directions* and the narrow road lacks sufficient width to accommodate two directions of traffic.

Applicant has also introduced new claims 23 through 31, including independent claims 23 and 28. Independent claims 23 and 28 are similar to claims 1 and 14 as amended, but incorporate the narrow road elements of claims 6 and 18 instead of the automatic flashing of an external light limitation.

Applicant believes that all of the pending claims are patentable. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,



David H. Bluestone
Registration No. 44,542
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200